

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image stripping apparatus comprising:

an image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material;

an image stripping means for stripping the image forming material from an image recording medium by making the image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium; and

a removing means for removing, from said image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium.

2. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an applying means for applying a releasing material on a surface of the image stripping member.

3. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a second applying means for applying a releasing material on a surface of the image recording medium before the image stripping member contacts the image recording medium.

4. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reducing means for reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material.

5. (Currently Amended) An image stripping material according to ~~claim 3~~claim 4, wherein said reducing means for reducing adhesiveness is a heating means for heating the image recording medium.

6. (Original) An image stripping apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a material forming a surface layer of the image recording medium has releasability with respect to the image recording material.

7. (Original) An image stripping method utilizing an image stripping apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

stripping an image forming material from an image recording medium by making an image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium, the image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; and

removing, from the image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium.

8. (Original) An image stripping method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material, before the image stripping member contacts the image forming material on the image recording medium.

9. (Original) An image stripping method according to claim 8, wherein in said step of reducing adhesiveness, the image forming material on the image recording medium is heated.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 5 is amended to correct the claim dependency. Support for this amendment can be found in claims 4 and 5 as filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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